**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor, if only one listed below, or co-inventor if more than one inventor is listed below, of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention titled **Automated Meter Reading System, Communication and Control Network for Automated Meter Reading, Meter Data Collector, and Associated Methods**, the specification of which: (check one)

\_\_\_\_\_ is attached hereto;  
☒ was filed on February 13, 2004 as Application Serial No. 10/779,429.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment(s) referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information, which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulation, § 1.56(a) for this application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or provisional application(s) listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or provisional application(s) having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 USC § 119
United States	60/447,815	February 14, 2003	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

APPLICATION SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	STATUS (PATENTED, PENDING, OR ABANDONED)

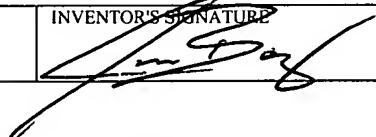
I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents, jointly and severally, to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

James E. Bradley, Reg. No. 27,536;	Jeffrey S. Whittle, Reg. No. 36,382;
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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF SOLE INVENTOR	INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
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